



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, August 4, 2010

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Secret Service Impersonator Sentenced to 36 Months of Probation

WASHINGTON - Frederick James Nickerson, 47, was sentenced to 36 months of probation on August 3, 2010 before the Honorable Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, for impersonation of a federal officer, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr.

Nickerson had pled guilty to this offense on May 4, 2010. At the time of his plea, he admitted that, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 2, 2010, he entered the Health and Human Services building located at 200 Independence Avenue SW, when it was closed to the general public. He attempted to bypass the metal detectors and security officer of the building by hurrying through the security area at the main entrance. When stopped by the security officer, who questioned Nickerson's identity and presence in the building, Nickerson pretended to be a federal officer. He displayed a badge that the government alleges was a Secret Service badge and falsely affirmed that he was a federal officer. Nickerson told the security officer that he needed access to the Secretary's Operations Center. He got inside the building but was stopped by a government employee near that location. He was asked to leave the building, which he did peacefully.

Nickerson, of Hopatcong, New Jersey, has a history of impersonating law enforcement and public health officials to gain access to restricted areas. He also was indicted in this case for impersonating a police officer to gain entry to the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police Department on December 31, 2009. This charge was dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement between the government and Nickerson. Pending his sentencing, Nickerson had been held without bond in jail since his arrest on January 6, 2010.

He remains in custody because a judge in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia has revoked his probation for a previous, unrelated offense.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the investigative and arrest work of Special Agent Jeff Levine and his colleagues at the Federal Protective Service, Special Agent Todd Wallace and his colleagues at the U.S. Secret Service, and Detective Matthew Shinton of the Metropolitan Police Department. He also commended Paralegal Jeannette Litz and Legal Assistant Latoya Davenport of the U.S. Attorney's Office for their work on the case. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorney

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Shana Fulton for the investigation and prosecution of the case.

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